

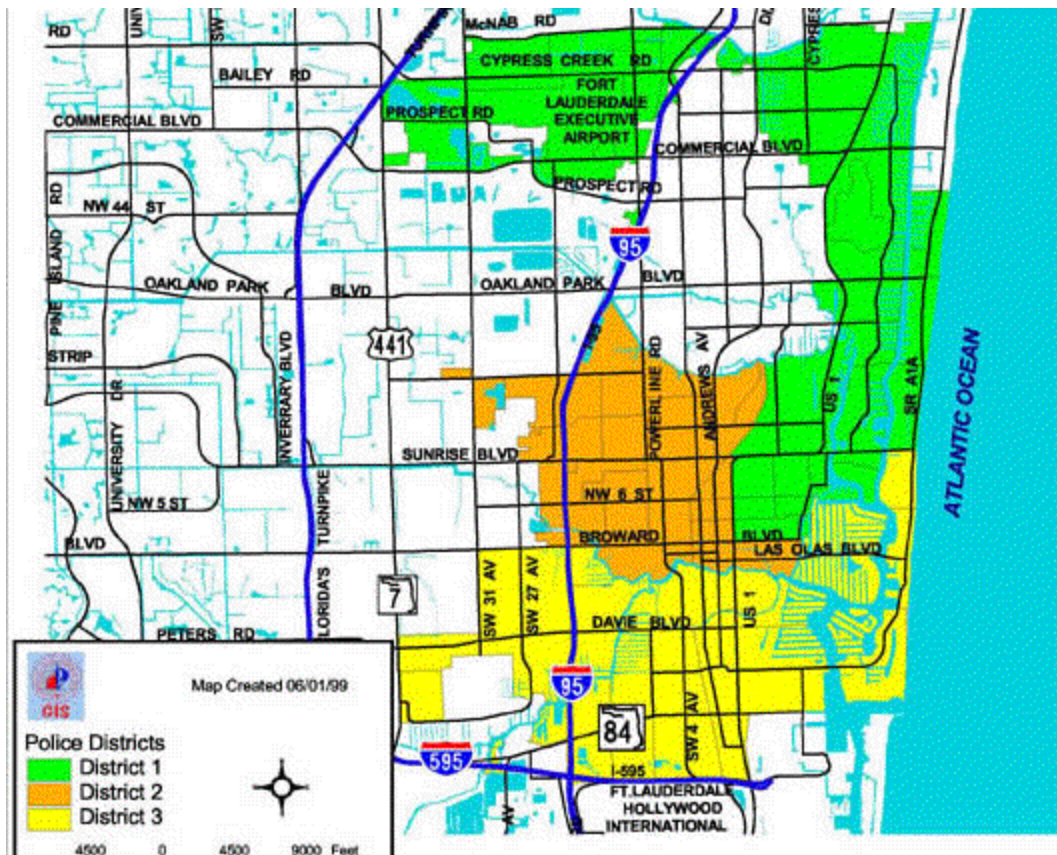
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Profile of Drug Indicators

February 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Ft. Lauderdale

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 152,397 (2000 Census); 149,377 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 66.8% white; 30.0% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.1% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander; 1.8% other race; 3.9% two or more races; 9.8% Hispanic origin
- Broward County Population: 1,623,018 (2000 Census); 1,255,488 (1990 Census)

Politics²

- Mayor: Jim Naugle
- City Commissioners (District): Gloria F. Katz (1); Tim Smith (2); Carlton B. Moore (3); Cindi Hutchinson (4)
- City Manager: Floyd Johnson
- Chief of Ft. Lauderdale Police Department: Bruce Roberts

Programs/Initiatives

- Executive Office of Weed and Seed³
The city of Ft. Lauderdale was designated as an official Weed and Seed site in 1995. The target area for this site is located in the northwest section of the city and is plagued with crime. A 5-year study showed that there has been a 200% increase in juvenile crime and an 80% increase in violent crime over the past decade within this area. This study also determined that there were 80 gangs with over 4,000 members in Broward County that operated throughout the target area.
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁴
Designated in 1990, the South Florida HIDTA is responsible for Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties. The extensive shoreline of the Florida peninsula and the Florida Keys combined with two major seaports and a close proximity to the Caribbean, make South Florida a prime target for maritime smuggling operations, particularly from Haiti.

Drugs⁵

- Cocaine
Powder and crack cocaine remain the primary illicit drugs of choice in the South Florida HIDTA region.
- Heroin
The use of heroin is rising dramatically in South Florida. Colombia is the primary source of the heroin found in this area. Because of oversupply, the price of heroin has dropped and the average street-level purity has reached 80% in this region.
- Marijuana
This substance remains readily available in South Florida. The increasing role of small-grow operations and indoor hydroponics operations is adding to the marijuana supply in the region.

➤ **Other Drugs**

The use of designer drugs, such as MDMA (ecstasy), is rising dramatically in the South Florida area.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January to November 2001, there were 2,089 drug arrests in Ft. Lauderdale. For January to November 2000, there were 2,060 drug arrests.⁶

Number of Arrests, Fort Lauderdale, January to November, 1998-2001

Offense Type	1998	1999	2000	2001
Homicide	15	19	13	24
Forcible sex offense	90	86	102	73
Robbery	789	634	710	742
Aggravated assault	511	528	679	544
Larceny	6,508	5,249	4,972	4,563
Auto theft	2,178	1,640	1,345	1,336
Arson	62	52	47	46
Drug	2,835	2,881	2,060	2,089

- During 1999, 63.8% of adult male arrestees and 67.9% of adult female arrestees tested positive for drug use in Ft. Lauderdale. 92.3% of the females arrested for drug possession tested positive for drug use at the time of their arrests.⁷

Percent Positive for Drugs, By Offense Category, Ft. Lauderdale, 1999

Offense Category	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth.		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	25.2	26.8	38.5	26.8	0.0	0.0	51.0	44.6
Property	47.3	45.0	42.0	35.0	0.0	0.0	69.6	68.3
Drug	63.8	79.6	45.5	34.4	1.4	0.0	86.4	91.4
Sales	57.6	33.3	51.5	33.3	0.0	0.0	81.8	66.7
Possession	65.6	80.2	45.0	35.2	1.6	0.0	87.8	92.3
Prostitution	0.0	88.9	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	88.9
Other	35.4	51.4	38.7	26.7	0.5	0.0	59.4	65.1

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2000, there were 662 full-time law enforcement employees working in Fort Lauderdale. 464 of these employees were officers, and 198 were civilians.⁸
- South Florida HIDTA Initiatives in Ft. Lauderdale and Broward County:⁹
- Transportation Conspiracy Unit – This multi-agency task force targets narcotic smuggling and money laundering operations. While the primary focus is internal conspiracies at Ft. Lauderdale International Airport, this initiative also targets the use of all types of common carriers.

- North Broward Drug Enforcement Unit – This task force is dedicated to the dismantling or disruption of the most significant illegal narcotics trafficking and money laundering organizations and armed groups involved in the drug trade.
- Street Gang and Criminal Organization Task Force – This multi-agency task force focuses on violent domestic street gangs through the use of racketeering style prosecutions with a focus on Broward County.

Juveniles

- Among Ft. Lauderdale high school students surveyed in 1999, nearly 40% of the males surveyed reported using marijuana at some point in their lives.¹⁰

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Ft. Lauderdale, 1999

Drug Type and Use	Females	Males	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use	37.1	39.8	38.4
Current Marijuana Use	20.3	21.6	20.9
Lifetime Cocaine Use	7.8	4.9	6.4
Current Cocaine Use	2.9	2.2	2.6
Lifetime Inhalant Use	8.9	9.5	9.2
Current Inhalant Use	2.4	4.0	3.2
Lifetime Heroin Use	3.3	2.9	3.1
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	6.1	5.8	5.9
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	2.3	3.5	2.9
Lifetime Injecting Illegal Drug Use	1.4	2.2	1.8
Tried Marijuana Before Age 13	7.7	12.0	9.8

Trafficking and Seizures

- South Florida remains a significant command and control center for international narcotics-trafficking organizations.¹¹
- South American cocaine, large quantities of heroin, and Mexican marijuana are trafficked through South Florida for local, regional, and national distribution.¹²
- During 2000, law enforcement officials in Broward County eradicated 1,753 marijuana plants.¹³
- During FY 2001, the U.S. Customs Service seized the following drug amounts in South Florida: 69,044 pounds of marijuana; 27,460 pounds of cocaine; and 1,089 pounds of heroin.¹⁴

Courts

- As of August 8, 2001, there were two drug courts in Ft. Lauderdale that had been operating for over two years. One of these drug courts is a juvenile drug court.¹⁵
- During FY 2000, over 50% of the Federally-sentenced offenders in southern Florida had been charged with a drug offense. The majority of these drug offenses involved powder cocaine.¹⁶

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, Southern Florida, FY 2000

Drug Type	Number	% of All Drug Offenses
Powder cocaine	658	60.4%
Heroin	168	15.4
Crack cocaine	129	11.8
Marijuana	91	8.3
Methamphetamine	1	0.1
Other	43	3.9

Consequences of Use

- From January to June 2001, there were 38 deaths in Ft. Lauderdale in which cocaine was present in the body.¹⁷
- During all of 2000, cocaine was found in 80 of the deaths reported in Ft. Lauderdale.¹⁸

Number of Deaths with Drugs Present, Ft. Lauderdale, 2000 and January-June 2001

Drug Involved	Full Year 2000	January-June 2001
Cocaine	80	38
Heroin	26	21
Hydrocodone*	61	16
Oxycodone*	--	30

* In 2000, hydrocodone and oxycodone were combined

- The Broward County Medical Examiners Office reported that cocaine was present in 67 accidental overdoses in the County during 2000.¹⁹

Drugs Found in Accidental Overdoses, Broward County, 2000

Drug Type	Number of Cases
Cocaine	67
Heroin	1
Morphine	2
Morphine (free)	36
Morphine (total)	4
Ethanol	49
Opiates	120
Benzodiazepines	91
GHB	2
Oxycodone	86
MDMA	5
Methadone	6

Treatment

- Substance Abuse and Health Care Services Division²⁰
This office assists persons living in Broward County who have alcohol and/or drug-related problems. They operate the Broward Addiction Recovery Center located in Ft. Lauderdale. This Center offers detoxification, diagnosis, and assessment of alcohol and drug-related problems, as well as outpatient and outreach services.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² City of Ft. Lauderdale Web site: <http://www.ci.ftlaud.fl.us>

³ Ft. Lauderdale Police Department Web site, Weed and Seed section:

<http://www.ci.ftlaud.fl.us/police/weedseed.html>

⁴ South Florida HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/sfla-fs.html>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ft. Lauderdale Police Department, District and Citywide Statistics:

<http://info.ci.ftlaud.fl.us/police/statdistgate.html>

⁷ ADAM 1999 Annual Report on Adult and Juvenile Arrestees, July 2000:

<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/99adltfind.pdf>

⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001:

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>

⁹ South Florida HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/sfla-fs.html>

¹⁰ CDC, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Summary – United States, 1999*, June 2000:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss4905a1.htm>

¹¹ South Florida HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/sfla-fs.html>

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *2000 Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program Annual Report, 2001*: <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/publications/mj.pdf>

¹⁴ U.S. Customs Service Web site: <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/enforcem/enforcem.htm>

¹⁵ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, August 8, 2001:

<http://www.american.edu/spa/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>

¹⁶ U.S. Sentencing Commission, FY 2000 Federal Sentencing Statistics, Southern Florida:

<http://www.ussc.gov/JUDPACK/2000/fls00.pdf>

¹⁷ Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *2001 Interim Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners*, September 2001:

<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Publications/Examiners/2001DrugsInDeceased.pdf>

¹⁸ Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *2000 Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners*, April 2001: http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/publications/fme_drug_report.pdf

¹⁹ Broward County Medical Examiner and Trauma Services Division, *2000 Annual Report*:

<http://www.broward.org/tmi03600.htm>

²⁰ Broward County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services Division: <http://www.co.broward.fl.us/adi00200.htm>

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

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